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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

1 DECEMBER 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Citrus Heights – Suspect in Four Sacramento County Pipe Bomb Bank Robberies Arrested

(U) A suspect in a series of bank robberies in Sacramento County was arrested earlier this week. John Dean Shultz, 32, was the suspect in the investigation into four bank robberies that took place between Auburn and Citrus Heights. Police said Schultz wore a device that appeared to be a pipe bomb on his chest while demanding money. During a search of Shultz's home in Orangevale authorities found a replica explosive device that was determined to be inert and other pieces of evidence linking him to the robberies.

SOURCE: 30 November 2022, KTXL

(U) Napa – Doctor Who Sold Fake COVID-19 Vaccine Cards Sentenced to Prison

(U) A doctor who sold fake COVID-19 vaccine cards during the height of the pandemic has been sentenced to prison. Julie Mazi pleaded guilty last April to wire fraud and false statements related to health care, and during Tuesday's hearing, she was sentenced to almost three-years in prison. The Department of Justice says this is the first prosecution related to fake vaccine cards.

SOURCE: 1 December 2022, CBS Sacramento

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – US CBP Officers Seize \$8.3 Million in Methamphetamine

(U) Laredo – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers seized methamphetamine that totaled more than \$8,300,000 in street value. The seizure occurred when a CBP officer referred a 34-year-old male Mexican citizen driving a 2005 International tractor hauling an empty trailer for secondary inspection. Following a canine and non-intrusive inspection system examination, CBP officers discovered a total of 913.50-pounds of alleged methamphetamine within the tractor. CBP seized the narcotics, the tractor, and trailer. Both the driver and passenger were arrested. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents are investigating the seizure.

SOURCE: 30 November 2022, CBP Press Release

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – DHS Warns About Domestic Extremists Praising Colorado Springs Suspect

(U) Washington – DHS issued a terror threat bulletin warning that domestic extremists have posted online praise for the fatal shooting at an LGBTQ+ nightclub in Colorado earlier this month. DHS cautioned in its latest National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) bulletin, reiterating concerns of copycat attacks, following the shooting that killed five people and injured at least 18 more. Researchers from the DHS Office of Intelligence & Analysis exposed similar praise from US actors encouraging violence following a shooting at an LGBTQ+ bar in Slovakia's capital, last month, that left two dead. SOURCE: 30 November 2022, CBS News

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(U) District of Columbia – US Considering Mercenary Group as Foreign Terrorist Organization

(U) Washington – The Biden administration is considering designating the Wagner Group, a Russian private military group, as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) amid ongoing efforts to impose costs on Russia for the Ukraine war. A final decision has not been made, and it is unclear how far out the administration is from potentially making this designation given the laborious legal process in making this determination. The Wagner Group is a mercenary firm that has been heavily involved in the fighting in Ukraine. The group is often described as President Vladimir Putin's off-the-books troops and has expanded its footprint globally since its creation in 2014.

SOURCE: 30 November 2022, CNN

(U) Georgia - FBI Investigating School Shooting Hoax Claims

(U) Savannah – Several Georgia schools were placed on lockdown yesterday after fake claims of school shootings. Over a dozen school districts were impacted by the shooting hoaxes. The FBI is aware of the numerous swatting incidents wherein a report of an active shooter at a school is made. The FBI is also working alongside local law enforcement in identifying the source of the hoax threats. There have been 257 incidents of school shooting events in 2022. Despite having 32 days left in the year, it has already surpassed the second-highest recorded total of 250 in 2021.

SOURCE: 30 November 2022, WSAV

(U) Puerto Rico – US CBP AMO Seizes 1987-Pounds of Cocaine from a Vessel

(U) Ponce – US CBP Air and Marine Operations (AMO) agents seized 1,987-pounds of cocaine from a vessel attempting to reach the coast of Guayama, Puerto Rico. The estimated street value of the contraband is \$20.7 million. The crew of an AMO Multi Role Enforcement Aircraft (MEA) detected a gofast vessel with two outboard engines and three persons on board. The Marine agents found 31 bales of contraband and four males who claimed to be from Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. The FBI took custody of the contraband and the individuals for investigation and prosecution.

SOURCE: 30 November 2022, CBP Press Release

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan - Ten Killed in Bombing of Religious School

(U) Aybak – A bomb blast hit a religious school in northern Afghanistan, killing at least ten students. The explosion occurred around the time of afternoon prayers at the Al Jihad Madrassa in Aybak, capital of Samangan province, where most of the students at the school are young boys. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the Afghan affiliate of the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), has been waging a campaign of violence that escalated since the Taliban took power in August 2021.

SOURCE: 30 November 2022, Associated Press

(U) Germany – Police Search and Question Online Hate Speech Suspects

(U) Berlin – German police searched homes and questioned suspects as part of an annual nationwide crackdown against online hate speech. In the central state of Hesse, officers investigated three women and six men, ages 17 to 72, prosecutors said. The allegations against them include incitement to hatred, defamation, and libel. Germany has staged annual police raids against online hate speech since 2016. Federal police say more than 2,000 politically motivated crimes committed online are recorded each year in Germany, but the actual figure is likely to be much higher because many illegal postings aren't reported to authorities or take place in closed groups.

SOURCE: 30 November 2022, Associated Press

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(U) Pakistan – Four Dead as Bomber Hits Police Protecting Polio Teams

(U) Quetta – A suicide bomber blew himself up near a truck carrying police officers on their way to protect polio workers, killing a police officer and three family members traveling in a car nearby. The bombing wounded 23 others, mostly police. A senior police officer said the attack happened as the police were heading to the polio workers as part of a nationwide vaccination drive. The blast was so powerful that it toppled the truck carrying police officers into a ravine, the bombing also damaged a nearby car carrying members of a family.

SOURCE: 30 November 2022, Associated Press

(U) Spain – US Embassy is Latest Site to get Suspicious Package

(U) Madrid – Police in Spain detonated a suspicious envelope discovered at the US Embassy, a day after a similar package that was sent to the Ukrainian Embassy ignited upon its opening and injured an employee. The American embassy confirmed a suspicious package was received and are aware of reports of other packages sent to other locations throughout Spain. Authorities cordoned off a wide area around the embassy, located in the center of Spain's capital. The action followed police reporting that multiple explosive letters were sent in Spain over the past two-days.

SOURCE: 1 December 2022, Associated Press

(U) Syria - ISIS Leader Killed in Battle

(U) Daraa – The leader of ISIS, Abu al-Hassan al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, was killed in battle recently, the group's spokesman said in audio released yesterday. He gave no further details. Al-Qurayshi is the second ISIS leader to be killed this year at a time when the extremist group has been trying to rise again with sleeper cells carrying out deadly attacks in Iraq and Syria. Little had been known about al-Qurayshi, who took over the group's leadership following the death of his predecessor, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, in a US raid in February 2022 in northwest Syria.

SOURCE: 30 November 2022, Associated Press

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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